

November 14, 2003

CHDP Provider Information Notice No.: 03-25

TO: CHDP HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP) PROGRAM
PROVIDERS

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON HEARING SCREENING IN THE CHDP PROVIDER'S
OFFICE

This notice provides updated CHDP Program Policy on hearing screening in the CDHP provider's office.

**HEARING ASSESSMENT THROUGH THE USE OF OTOACOUSTIC EMISSIONS
(OAE) TECHNOLOGY**

Section 602 of the CHDP Health Assessment Guidelines defines the requirement for a hearing screen to be performed at each CHDP health assessment visit. Screening for hearing problems in children age two months through three years must include history and clinical and behavioral observation.

A screen for hearing problems in children age three to twenty one years at each CHDP health assessment visit must include use of a pure tone air conduction audiometer with intensity levels not exceeding 25dB frequency levels of 1000, 2000 and 4000Hz. Play audiometry is the method applied in the use of the audiometer in screening children three to six years of age.

Many CHDP providers have questioned whether they can use OAE for screening hearing during a CHDP health assessment. OAE technology is sensitive to outer hair cell function in the inner ear. The technology can be used to assess inner ear hearing loss. OAE evaluations do not measure neural (i.e., eighth nerve or auditory brainstem pathway) function and the results of the OAE evaluation can be misinterpreted if an outer or middle ear pathology is present. The procedure also requires a co-operative child in a quiet state with a properly fitted probe to ensure reliability of the stimulus presentation.



Do your part to help California save energy. To learn more about saving energy, visit the following web site:
www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html

Although use of OAE technology has application in the hearing screening of newborns and in the diagnosis of hearing loss, the CHDP Program does not recognize this procedure as standard of practice for screening of a child's hearing as part of a CHDP health assessment. Therefore, CHDP Program will not reimburse for its use.

USE OF APPROPRIATE AUDIOMETERS

Puretone audiometers used for CHDP hearing screening tests shall be those manufactured to meet or exceed specifications for Type 4 audiometers as described by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) S3.6 – 1996 (revision of S3.6 – 1989). (Please refer to the updated Health Assessment Guidelines Appendix P, Guidelines for Audiometric Testing, that is enclosed) Each audiometer must be calibrated annually, be powered by alternation current (AC) powered, and have the minimum ability to:

- Produce intensities between 0 to 80dB.
- Produce frequencies at 1000, 2000 and 400Hz with 3000Hz being optional.
- Have a headset with right and left earphones.
- Be operated manually.

It is also recommended, but not required, that the audiometer include the capacity to produce a pulsed tone.

If you have any questions concerning these issues please feel free to contact Steven Rawiszer, Hearing Conservation Specialist for the CHDP Program, at (916) 323-8087.

Original Signed by Harvey Fry for Maridee Gregory, M.D.

Maridee A. Gregory, M.D. Chief
Children's Medical Services Branch

Enclosures

Guidelines for Audiometric Testing

Qualifications of Personnel Performing an Audiometric Screening

All persons administering a pure tone audiometric screening test must have completed a training course in screening audiometry from the State Department of Health Services, or through a program approved by the State Department of Health Services, and received a certificate.

If a screener has not administered a hearing screening test within a year of their training course, the screener must repeat the training.

Audiometric Testing

Use a pure tone audiometer to conduct hearing screening tests. The pure tone audiometer must meet or exceed specifications for type 4 audiometers as defined by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) S3.6-1996 (revision of S2.6-1989). The audiometer must operate by AC, alternating current as required for their accuracy and long life.

When testing by air conduction, cover both ears with an earphone and cushion, ANSI S3.6 1996, Table 1. Do not use speech materials for the testing procedure because these materials fail to identify individuals with hearing impairments in the frequency range above 500 Hz.

Test the audiometer each day prior to use to determine if it is working properly. This can be done by a person with normal hearing. Listen to the sounds from each earphone. If unwanted sounds or interruptions occur, do not use the audiometer. Instead, arrange for the audiometer to be serviced.

Assess the testing room for noise level prior to the start of testing. To ensure the testing room is quiet enough to perform the hearing screening, a person with normal hearing should put the earphones on and be able to hear each frequency (1000-4000 Hz) at 15 dB.

Perform an electroacoustic calibration check of an audiometer at least every 12 months or more frequently, if indicated. If the audiometer fails to meet any of the ANSI S3.6-1996 or current specifications, provide for electroacoustic adjustments so that all standards are met before using the audiometer for screening.

Keep a calibration chart or sticker with the audiometer showing proof of performance.

PURETONE AUDIOMETERS, SALES, REPAIR AND CALIBRATION SERVICES

It is recommended that audiometers be purchased through agencies that provide readily available repair and calibration services.
The following is a partial list of resources specializing in audiometric equipment that are located throughout California

RESOURCES	PHONE NUMBERS	WEBSITE	CONTACTS
STATEWIDE			
AMBCO ELECTRONIC, INC 15052 Redhill Avenue, Suite D Tustin, CA 92780	800-345-1079 Tel: 714-259-7930 Fax: 714-259-1688	www.AMBCO.com	George Koutures Maria Koutures
ECKSTEIN BROTHERS, INC 4807 West 118 th Place Hawthorne, CA 90250-2797	800-432-4913 Tel: 323-772-6113 Fax: 310-644-3869		Isabel Gordon Carol Eckstein
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA			
ACOUSTI-MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS, INC. 4836 Stratos Way, Suite F Modesto, CA 95356	800-227-1130 Tel: 209-549-9308 Fax: 209-549-9775	www.acoustimedical.com	John Brewer Jessy Huerta
ELECTRONIC ACOUSTIC COMPAY, INC 1610 Blossom Hill Road, Suite 10 San Jose, CA 95124-6349	800-752-1431 Tel: 408-445-3292 Fax: 408-445-3294		Ron Pew Dan Beesley Sharon Pew Annie Smith
MEDI 4814 East Second Street Benecia, CA 94510	800-736-6334 Tel: 707-746-6334 Fax: 707-746-6374	www.medi.cc	Phil Korbas Donna Ward Ed Sheldon
MEDIQUIP 541 North Main Street Suite 104 # 128 Corona, CA 92880	866-633-4784 Tel: 909-273-8985	www.mediquipinc.com	M.E. Duncan
HEALTH CARE INSTRUMENT 2120-D College Ave Modesto, CA 95350-3044	800-653-3277 Tel: 209-491-0420 Fax: 209-491-0413	www.micronpc.com	Ron Macon Dan Hatch

PURETONE AUDIOMETERS, SALES, REPAIR AND CALIBRATION SERVICES (CONT.)

RESOURCES	PHONE NUMBERS	WEBSITE	CONTACTS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA			
AUDIO-MED, INC 16043 Valley View Ave Santa Fee Springs, CA 90670	800-982-7762 Tel: 562-921-1427 Fax: 562-921-8931	www.audiomed.com	Karl Brandmaier Phil Allgaier Daniel Gomez
AUDIOMETRICS 909 S. Tremont Street Oceanside, CA 92054	800-873-1222 Tel: 760-435-1034 Fax: 760- 435- 1334	www.audiometrics.net	Jeff Pommier
ELECTRO-MEDICAL INSTRUMENTATION 515-I West Valencia Drive Fullerton, CA 92832-2194	800-273-3340 Tel: 714-526-7256 Fax: 714-526-0393		Jack Beard Robert Stewart
HTL ACOUSTICS 23637 Maricio Drive Valencia, CA 91355	Tel: 661-259-3684 Fax: 661-259-6150	www.htlacoustics.com	Terri Danielson Pete Danielson
SAN-VAL ELECTRONIC LAB (Service Only) 215 Jeffries Avenue Monrovia, CA 91016	Tel: 626-574-5572 Fax: same as above		Phillip A. Feola

The Department of Health Services
Hearing Conservation Program
Children's Medical Services/CHDP
P.O. Box 942732
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: 916-323-8087
Fax: 916-323-8104

L:PURETON AUDIOMETERS SERVICES

March 28, 2003